



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Department of Human Services  
Office of Early Childhood Development

PRE-KINDERGARTEN INCENTIVE PROGRAM

First Year Evaluation

**RESPONSES TO APPLICANT QUESTIONS**

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1. **Are for profit companies allowed to apply?**

Yes. The DHS/OECD invites applications from private and non-profit research organizations and universities.

2. **My company is certified in the District, but is a for-profit evaluation firm. The eligibility criterion in the RFA states that applications are invited from private and non-profit organizations. Does this mean organizations that are private and also are non-profit, or is a private for profit organization eligible to apply?**

Private non- and for-profit organizations are eligible to apply for grants under this RFA.

3. **The grant application package for the evaluation of the Pre-K incentive program indicates that proposals will be scored and that awards will be given until funds run out. That is, there will be multiple awards. However, the 2-page announcement indicates clearly at the top of page 2 that there were be only ONE award. Similarly, at the bidder's conference, Jason Hopkins indicated that there will be only ONE award. Please confirm that the intent is that there will be only one award.**

Only one grant will be awarded under this RFA.

4. **One of the contracted tasks is the development of a design for a longitudinal study. Please confirm that the successful applicant will NOT be precluded from bidding on the longitudinal study.**

The successful applicant under this RFA will not be precluded on that basis from applying for any subsequent RFA that may be issued for implementation of a longitudinal study that may be designed under this RFA.

5. **The evaluation is presented as a grant. Is there any possibility that this could be changed to a contract? Sometimes, when a small disadvantaged business expresses interest in and bids successfully on a project, it has been awarded as a small disadvantaged business contract rather than as a grant. Is it possible in this case**

**that the evaluation could be changed to a contract either before or after applications are submitted to permit funding of a small disadvantaged business?**

No. Funds under this RFA will be awarded in the form of a grant.

6. **The grant application sets a cap of 8% on the amount of indirect costs or overhead that can be proposed for recovery under this application. Such a very low cap precludes virtually all businesses and academic institutions from applying. Can this cap be lifted?**

No.

7. **Even if this procurement cannot be changed into a contract, Jason Hopkins indicated at the bidder's conference in his PowerPoint Presentation that for-profit organizations are eligible to apply. If a for-profit organization receives the award, can the successful applicant charge a fee on its work?**

Organizations may not charge a "fee" for services requested under this grant.

8. **Is it possible to obtain a copy of Jason Hopkins's PowerPoint Presentation?**

The information contained in the PowerPoint presentation is the same as you will find in the RFA on-line at [www.opgd.dc.gov](http://www.opgd.dc.gov) and in the handouts from the Pre-Application Conference.

9. **Applicants for grants to conduct the Pre-K incentive projects are required to develop an evaluation design. Will the successful applicant for the overall evaluation of these projects be required to provide technical assistance to the local site with respect to evaluation?**

No.

10. **Will the local sites be required to report on any kind of evaluation results? Will the overall evaluator be required to synthesize these results? What, if any, responsibility will the overall evaluator have for incorporating any of the grantees' evaluation results into project reports?**

Yes, the projects will be required to report on evaluations results; the grantee under this RFA will not be required to synthesize the results except to the extent that such synthesis may have impact or be useful to the presentation of an overall evaluation design; and, the grantee under this RFA will have no responsibility for incorporating project evaluation results into project reports.

11. **With the second wave of applications for program sites to be announced on September 16, do you truly expect these sites to be fully operational on October 1?**

Yes. We expect that many of the applicants under the second round of applications applied unsuccessfully in the first round. Therefore, anticipating better success the second time around, we expect that these applicants will have completed much of the preparation needed to begin operation as scheduled.

12. **How much time will applicants who want to be funded sites have to become fully operational?**

Approximately two weeks. We hope to make award announcements on or before September 16.

**13. To what extent is the evaluator's task to document the process among the sites of becoming operational?**

To the extent that operational preparation has some bearing on assessing the first year of implementation of the Pre-Kindergarten Incentive Program, the grantee under this RFA would be expected to collect and report on this data.